

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /137 R

66619

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT

APPROVED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 020210

R 092022Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY SANAA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 9,
1974:

QUOTE: Q. WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE SYRIAN?

A. NONE THAT I CAN SHARE WITH YOU SPECIFICALLY THIS AFTER-
NOON. I EXPECT HE WILL BE SEEING HIM LATER IN THE WEEK.

Q. HAVE YOU EVER CONFIRMED WHO THE SYRIAN DELEGATION IS?

A. NO. WE ARE LEAVING THAT PROPERLY TO THE SYRIAN GOVERN-
MENT.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN STORIES FROM DAMASCUS SAYING IT WAS THE
HEAD OF THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE. IF WE USE THE REPORTS FROM
THERE, IDENTIFY HIM AS THAT PERSON, ARE WE WRONG?

A. I THINK YOU CAN ACCEPT THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT
ON THAT.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM WHEN THEY ARE COMING?

A. NOW, LOOK, THEY WILL BE HERE. EVERYTHING IS ON TRACK.
IT IS ALL GOING TO WORK OUT WELL.

Q. I HAVE TO KNOW WHAT DAY THEY ARE GOING TO BE HERE. CAN
YOU TELL ME THAT?

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A. NO.

Q. CAN WE TAKE YOUR STATEMENT AS AN EXPRESSION OF DEPART-
MENT CONFIDENCE THAT THERE WILL BE A DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN
SYRIA AND ISRAEL?

A. I WAS THINKING MORE IN TERMS OF WHAT TO LOOK FOR TOWARDS
THE END OF THE WEEK.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH OF APRIL, AND IF SO, WHEN?

A. ON BACKGROUND, THERE IS REALLY NOT MUCH I CAN ADD TO WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM YOUR OWN SOURCES, WHO ARE MORE SENIOR THAN MYSELF, ABOUT A PLANNED TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST. I KNOW OF NOTHING TO CHANGE THOSE PLANS.

Q. ARE WE CONCERNED THAT THIS GOVERNMENT CRISIS IN ISRAEL -- MIGHT AFFECT THE WHOLE ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SYRIANS?

A. I WOULD NOT WANT TO BE PUT IN A POSITION OF COMMENTING ON THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT. AND I WILL TAKE REFUGE IN THAT TO DECLINE COMMENT.

Q. BUT CLEARLY, ANY DISRUPTION IN ANY GOVERNMENT INVOLVED, WHETHER IT IS SYRIAN OR ISRAELI, IS NOT GOING TO BE HELPFUL TO THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS, RIGHT?

A. YOU ARE ASKING ME TO AGREE WITH THAT. I JUST WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE MATTER.

Q. HAS THIS GOVERNMENT BEEN CONTACTED AT ALL BY THE ISRAELIS TO PROCURE THE RELEASE OF THE TWO PILOTS WHO BAILED OUT OVER LEBANON?

A. AS A FACTUAL MATTER, I DON'T KNOW. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, I DON'T THINK I WOULD COMMENT IF I DID KNOW. END QUOTE. RUSH

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